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Discovery of Another Cotype of *Bathysiredon dumerilii* (Duges), 1870

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The peculiar "axolotl" of Lake Pátzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico, described by Dugès (1870, p. 241-244, pl. 5) under the genus *Siredon*, was transferred many years afterwards by Dunn (1939) to his newly created genus *Bathysiredon*, of which it still is the only species. Dugès based his description mainly on a female, but he did not designate it as a cotype, nor for that matter did he use the word *type* at all in his paper. However, one of the specimens probably used by Dugès to write his description, now in the collections of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences (No. 13862), which he presented to Cope, has always been considered as a cotype, as well as two others in the U. S. National Museum (Nos. 16201-2), according to Dunn (*loc. cit.*) and Smith and Necker (1943, p. 214).

A striking feature of the taxonomic situation of this species is the scarcity of specimens in museums and collections of the world. After a survey conducted in several North American institutions by myself in 1945 and 1946, I am convinced that there are not more than 12 in all, including the three mentioned cotypes. I doubt the existence of specimens of *Bathysiredon dumerilii* (Dugès) in European museums. In the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Mexico there are two more specimens, without localities, erroneously classified as *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green). Also, I am in possession of two specimens, collected in Lake Pátzcuaro by members of the staff of the Limnological Station which is maintained in that locality by the Secretaria de Marina, a department of the Mexican Government. Thus, to all appearances, the sum total of specimens of *Bathysiredon dumerilii* (Dugès) did not exceed the number of 16 until recently.

In the course of a visit to the Alfredo Dugès Museum of Natural History of the University of Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, made with the

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purpose of getting acquainted with the collections of amphibians deposited in that institution,* I had the good fortune of finding what can probably be considered another cotype of *Bathysiredon dumerilii* (Dugès) (Fig. 1). The specimen is in an excellent state of preservation, and has a label that was written by Dugès himself. It was not reported upon in the revision of Dugès' types by Smith and Necker (1943, p. 214). In view of the detailed description of the genus *Bathysiredon*, as given by Dunn (*loc. cit.*), and the remarks of Taylor (1939, p. 246-247) on the species *dumerilii*, its redescription does not seem warranted. However, I think it useful to record my observations, most of which can easily be checked on the illustration of the specimen, in spite of the photographic distortion.

The head is well rounded, highly flattened, and wider (at its extreme transverse diameter) than the trunk. The costal grooves (14 from axilla to groin) are well marked on both sides. The tail is laterally flattened, having a well developed dorsal keel, whose maximum height is between the posterior limbs. There is also a ventral keel on the corresponding border of the tail, behind the cloaca. The cloacal lips are highly flattened. The gular fold is well developed. Both external gills and branchial filaments have their peculiar aspect in the species. The skin of the dorsal surface of head and trunk has many hemispherical depressions, recalling the effects of an attack of small-pox on the human skin. There is a clear lack of pigmentation on the sides of the head and on the dorsal surface of the four limbs. Ground coloration is brownish-gray, with a violet tone, less obscure on lateral and ventral parts. There are some dark spots, almost black, on the sides of the tail.

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*Other findings, made during the same visit to the Alfredo Dugs Museum of Natural History of the University of Guanajuato, on November 3-4, 1947, will be reported upon in a paper to be published in a Mexican scientific journal.

could not ascertain the sex because dissection of the animal was not permitted.



Fig. 1. Cotype of *Bathysiredon dumerilii* (Dugès), Alfredo Dugès Museum, University of Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico.

.X 1/2

Dimensions:

Total length . . .	275 mm.
Length of head and trunk .	140 mm.
Length of left anterior limb	45 mm. 51
Length of left posterior limb	mm.

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H. K. Gloyd, Director of the Museum.

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